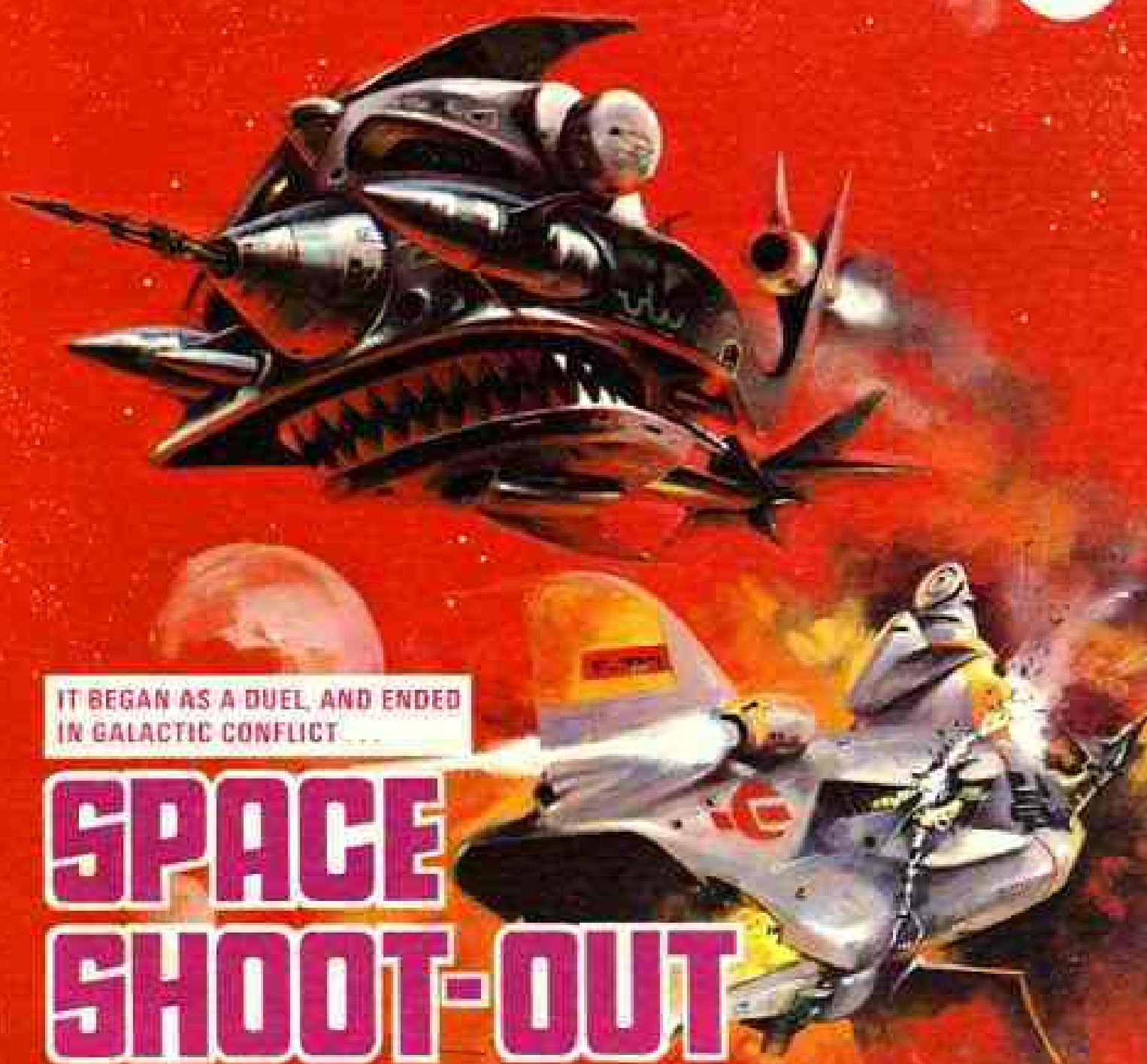


STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 82

18p



IT BEGAN AS A DUEL, AND ENDED
IN GALACTIC CONFLICT...

SPACE SHOOT-OUT

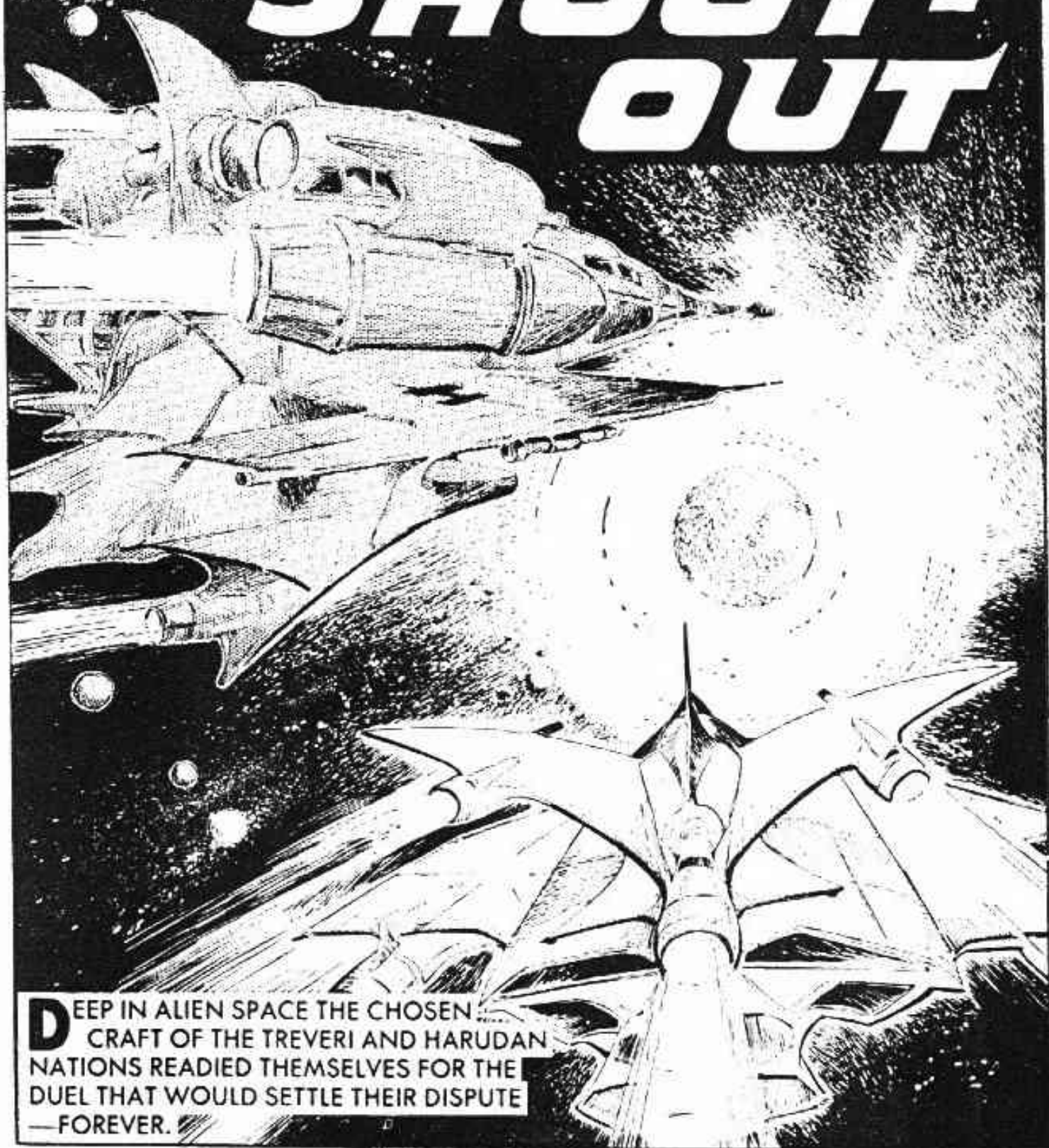
STARBLAZER



FAR OFF IN A
DISTANT GALAXY,
TWO WARRING POWERS,
DEADLOCKED FOR MANY YEARS,
DEvised A MEANS OF RESOLVING THEIR
LONG CONFLICT. THEY ARRANGED FOR A DUEL
TO BE FOUGHT—ONE SHIP FROM EACH SIDE—WHICH
WOULD DECIDE THE OUTCOME OF THE LONG, LONG WAR.

EARTH, A PEACEFUL WORLD MANY LIGHT YEARS AWAY,
WAS UNAWARE THAT FATE HAD DECREED IT WAS TO BE
INNOCENTLY INVOLVED AND THAT IT WAS TO BE THE LOSER!

SPACE SHOOT- OUT



DEEP IN ALIEN SPACE THE CHOSEN CRAFT OF THE TREVERI AND HARUDAN NATIONS READIED THEMSELVES FOR THE DUEL THAT WOULD SETTLE THEIR DISPUTE — FOREVER.

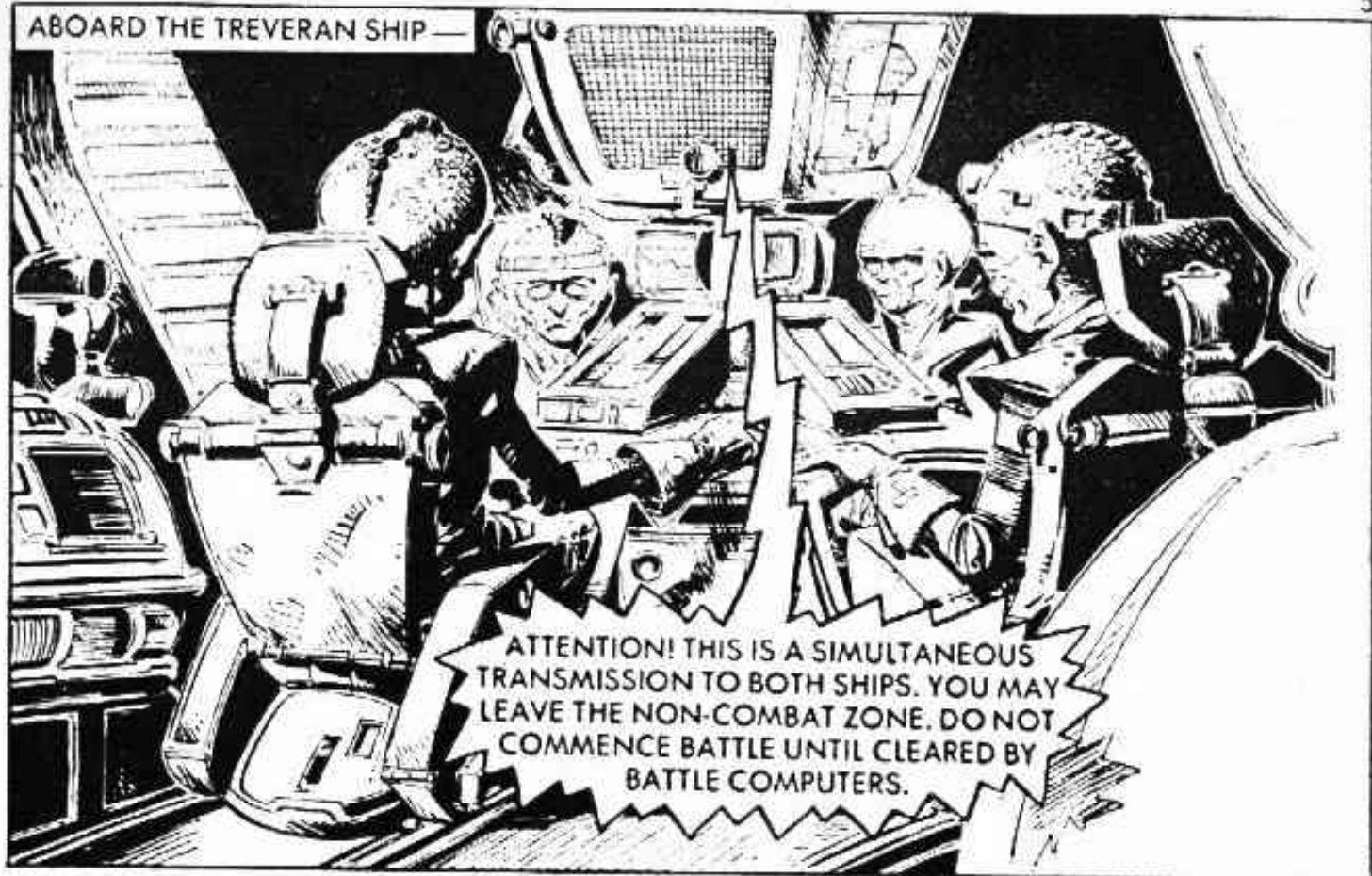
THE OPPOSING GENERALS SAT IN SILENCE IN THE CONTROL CENTRE RUN BY NEUTRAL OBSERVERS.



GENTLEMEN, PROCEED.



ABOARD THE TREVERAN SHIP —



ATTENTION! THIS IS A SIMULTANEOUS TRANSMISSION TO BOTH SHIPS. YOU MAY LEAVE THE NON-COMBAT ZONE. DO NOT COMMENCE BATTLE UNTIL CLEARED BY BATTLE COMPUTERS.

ONCE CLEAR OF THE PLANET, THE SHIPS RECEIVED PERMISSION TO OPEN FIRE.



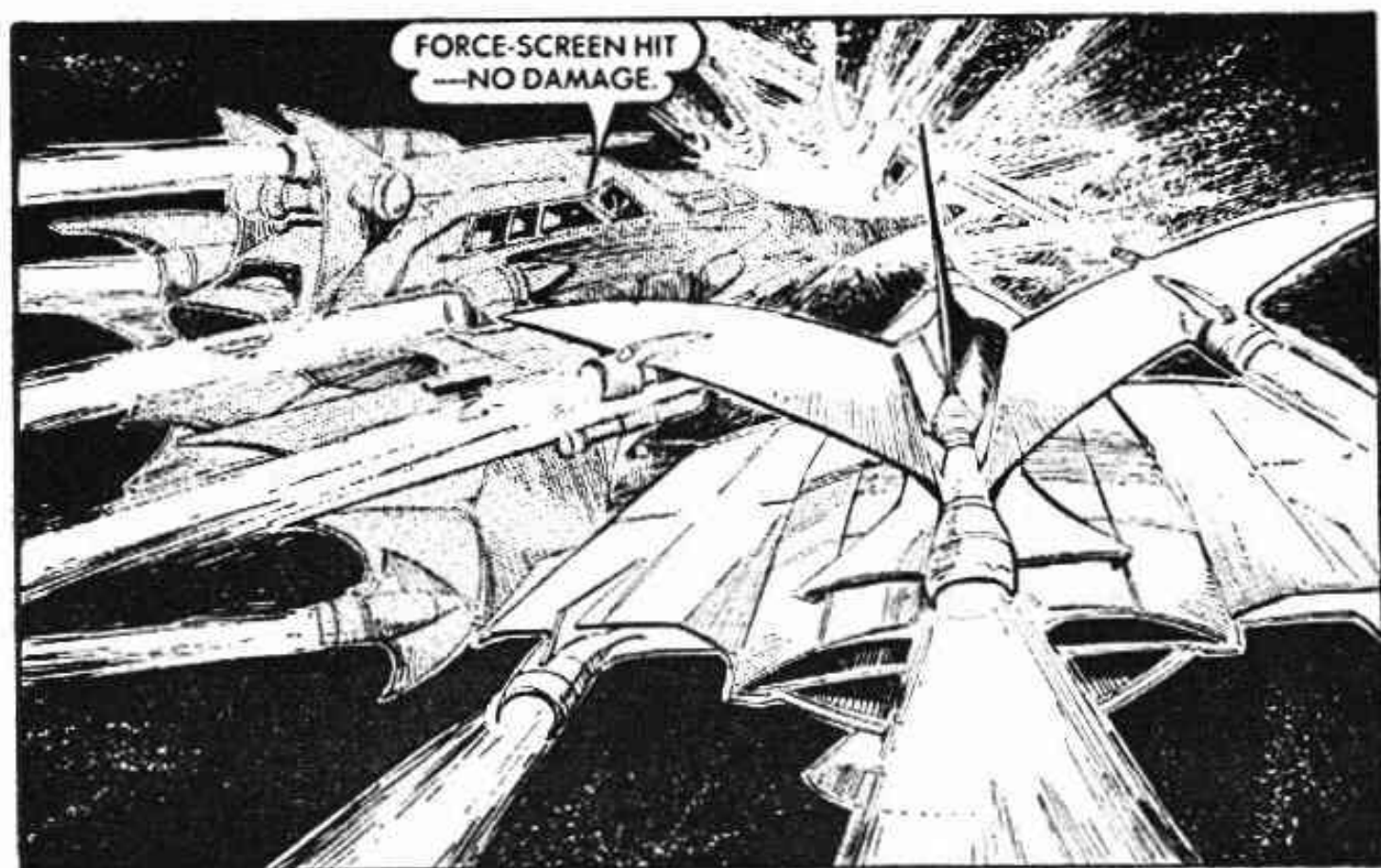
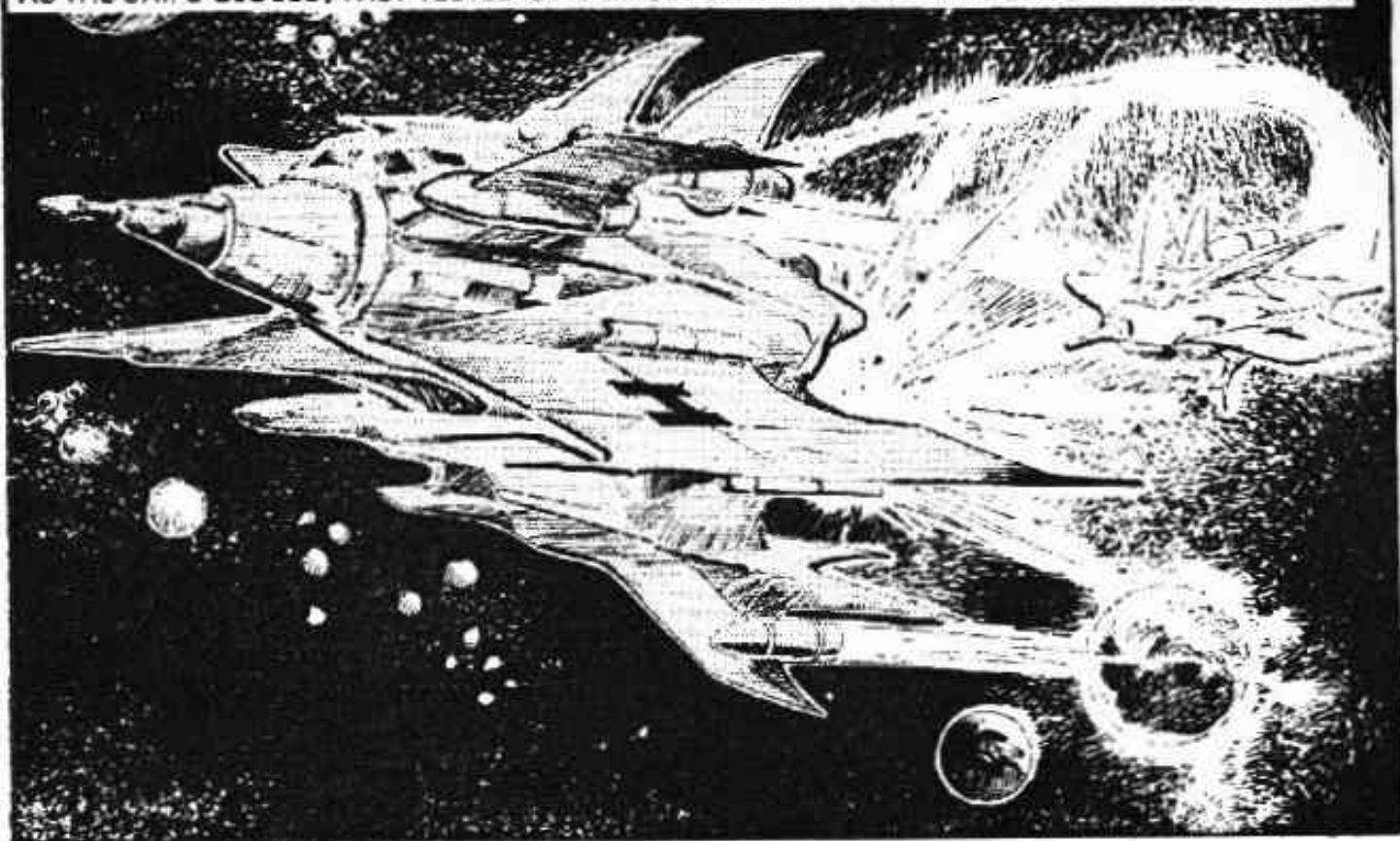
WE ARE CLOSING IN ON THE HARUDAN VESSEL.

THE COMPUTERS ARE ANALYSING THE HARUDAN BATTLESHIP'S PROFILE, LOOKING FOR WEAK POINTS.



WHILE THEY DO THE SAME TO US. FIRST TO HIT THE VULNERABLE SPOT, WINS. THIS IS MADNESS! WHY DID OUR LEADERS AGREE TO THIS... THE HARUDANS ARE THE AGRESSORS. IF THEY WIN THEY WILL WIPE OUT ALL OUR PEOPLE.

AS THE SHIPS CLOSED, THEY TESTED ONE ANOTHER'S DEFENCES WITH LONG RANGE MISSILES.



THE DUEL RAGED WITHOUT REST OVER VAST DISTANCES — CARRYING THE GLADIATORS INTO THE VICINITY OF A BLACK HOLE.



WE'RE FLYING TOWARDS A BLACK HOLE! WHY HAVEN'T THE COMPUTERS DIVERTED US AROUND IT?



BECAUSE OUR COMPUTERS ARE PROGRAMMED TO DESTROY, NOT NAVIGATE.

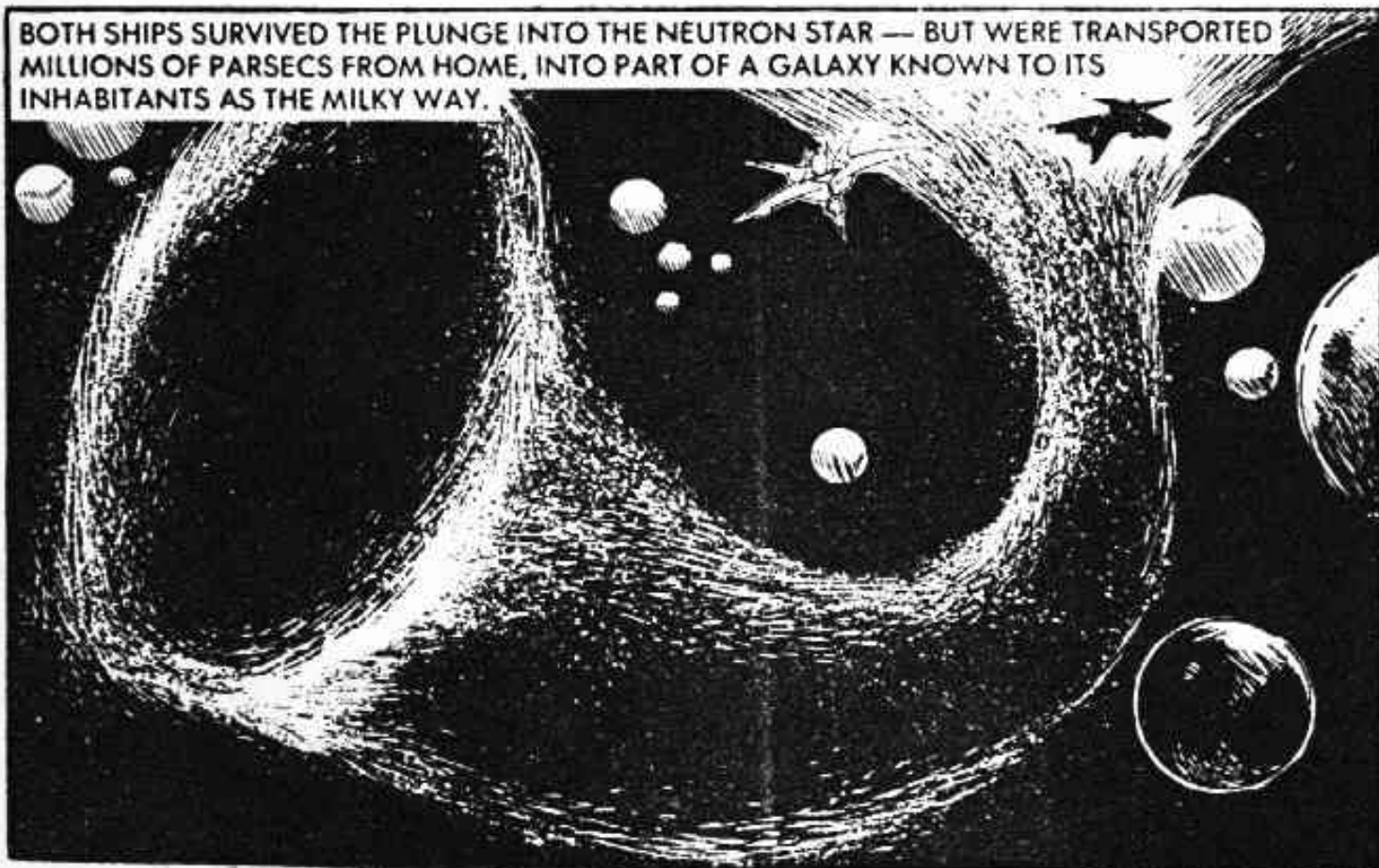
THE SHIPS WERE DRAWN UNCONTROLLABLY INTO THE BLACK HOLE.



THE ENORMOUS FORCES OF THE
BLACK HOLE CAUSED
UNCONSCIOUSNESS.



BOTH SHIPS SURVIVED THE PLUNGE INTO THE NEUTRON STAR — BUT WERE TRANSPORTED
MILLIONS OF PARSECS FROM HOME, INTO PART OF A GALAXY KNOWN TO ITS
INHABITANTS AS THE MILKY WAY.



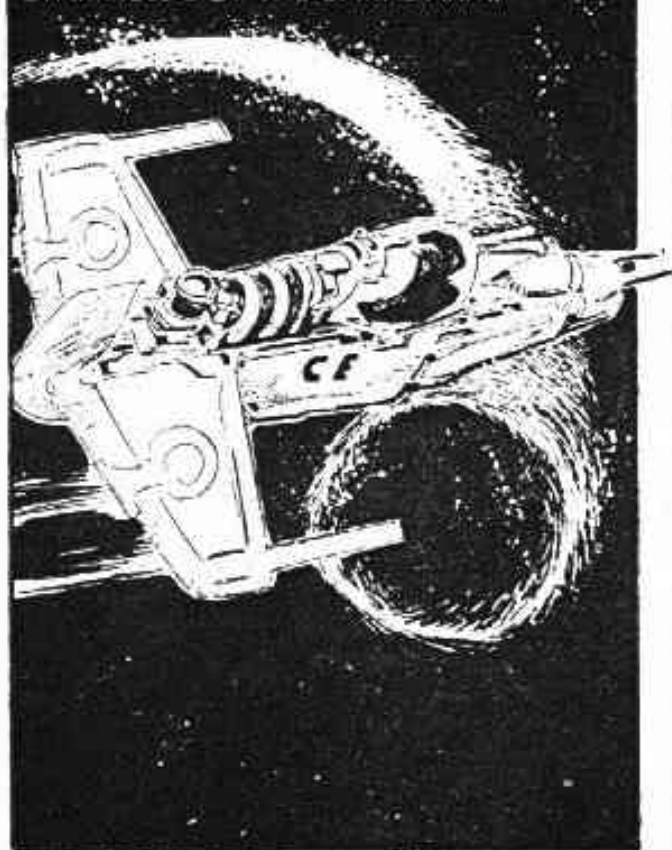


NEARBY, ON ROUTINE PATROL, AN EARTH CRAFT PICKED UP AN EMERGENCY —



DIVERT FROM PATROL DUTY IMMEDIATELY. PROCEED ON THE COURSE NOW BEING FED INTO YOUR NAVIGATION COMPUTER. THERE'S AN EMERGENCY IN THE SPIRAL ARM. MONITORING STATIONS HAVE REPORTED THE DISAPPEARANCE OF PLANET-SIZED BODIES FROM THEIR RADAR SCREENS. I'M DETAILING YOU TO INVESTIGATE.

THE PATROL CRAFT ENTERED THE RICH STAR FIELDS OF THE SPIRAL ARM.



AUTOMATIC DETECTION SYSTEM SHOWS HEAVY METEOR SHOWER AT EXTREME RANGE: LARGE SPREAD, MOVING VERY FAST.



I'VE GOT IT ON MY SCANNER NOW. THERE'S TOO MUCH OF IT TO TRY AND DODGE. MAN THE GUNS, MR TURNER.

THE ONRUSHING METEOR STORM GAVE THE SPACERS LITTLE TIME TO PREPARE THEIR DEFENCE.



I'M IN POSITION, CAPTAIN MARSHALL. STEER FOR THE LIGHTER MATERIAL, AND I'LL TRY TO PUNCH A PATH THROUGH.



WITH TURNER OPERATING THE ENERGY CANNON, THE EARTH SHIP COURSED AGAINST THE METEOR TIDE.



CAPTAIN JOHN MARSHALL AND GUNNER DANIEL TURNER MADE UP THE TWO-MAN CREW OF THE PATROL FORCE.

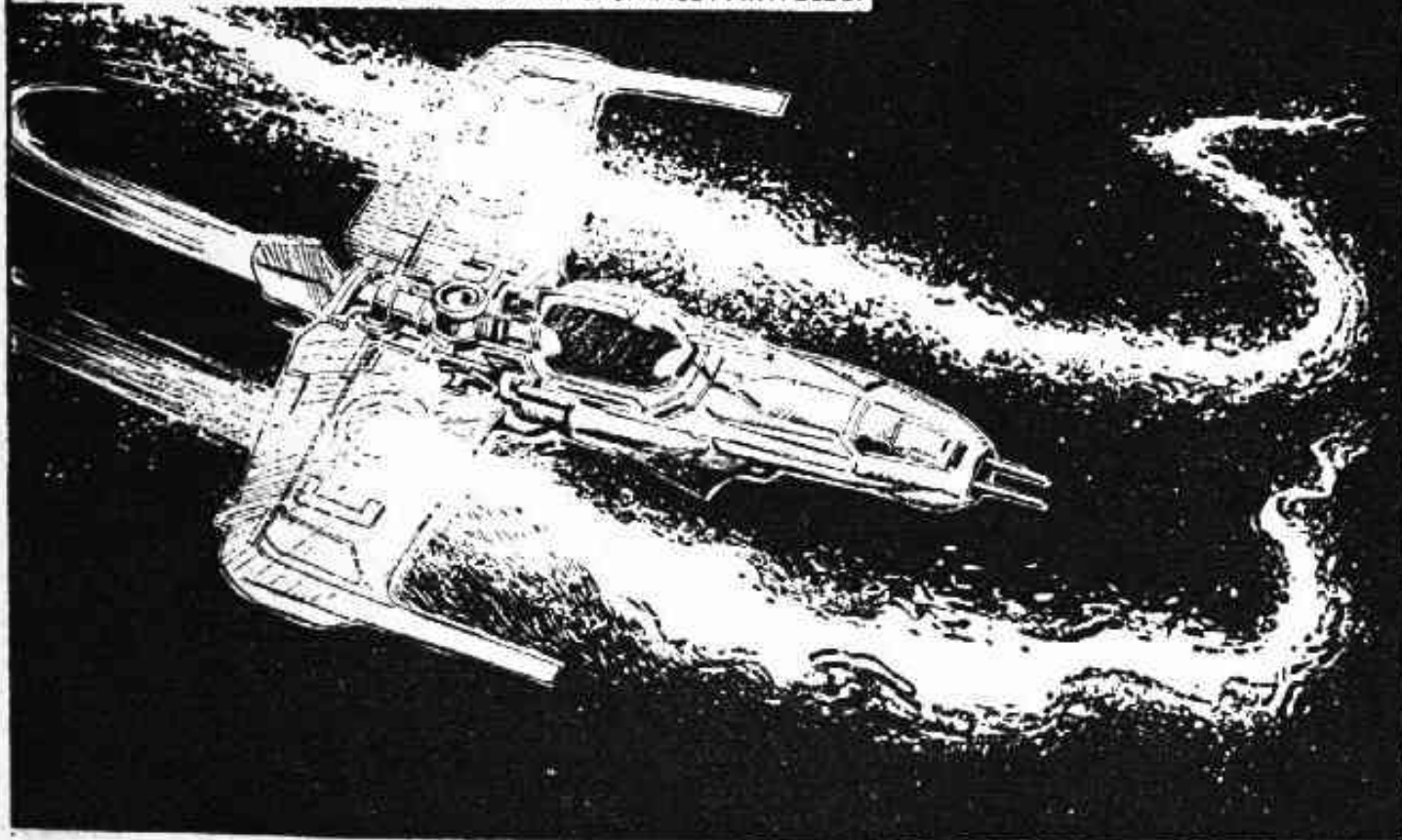


AN ENERGY CONVERSION FIELD SURROUNDED THE SHIP, SO THAT WHEN THE METEOR STRUCK IT, THE FORCE OF THE IMPACT WAS CONVERTED INTO USABLE ENERGY FOR THE SHIP'S DEFENCE SHIELD . . .





THEY FOLLOWED THE TRAIL OF DUST AND SMALL PARTICLES.





THE GREAT SHIP VENTED WASTE MATERIAL.



IT'S TAKING IN LARGE CHUNKS OF ROCK THEN
EXPELLING THE STUFF IT DOESN'T WANT.

THAT'S WHERE OUR METEOR STORM
CAME FROM — SPEWED OUT OF THAT
SHIP. JUDGING BY THE AMOUNT OF
MATERIAL IT'S TAKING IN, THAT'S
WHERE THE MISSING PLANETS WENT.

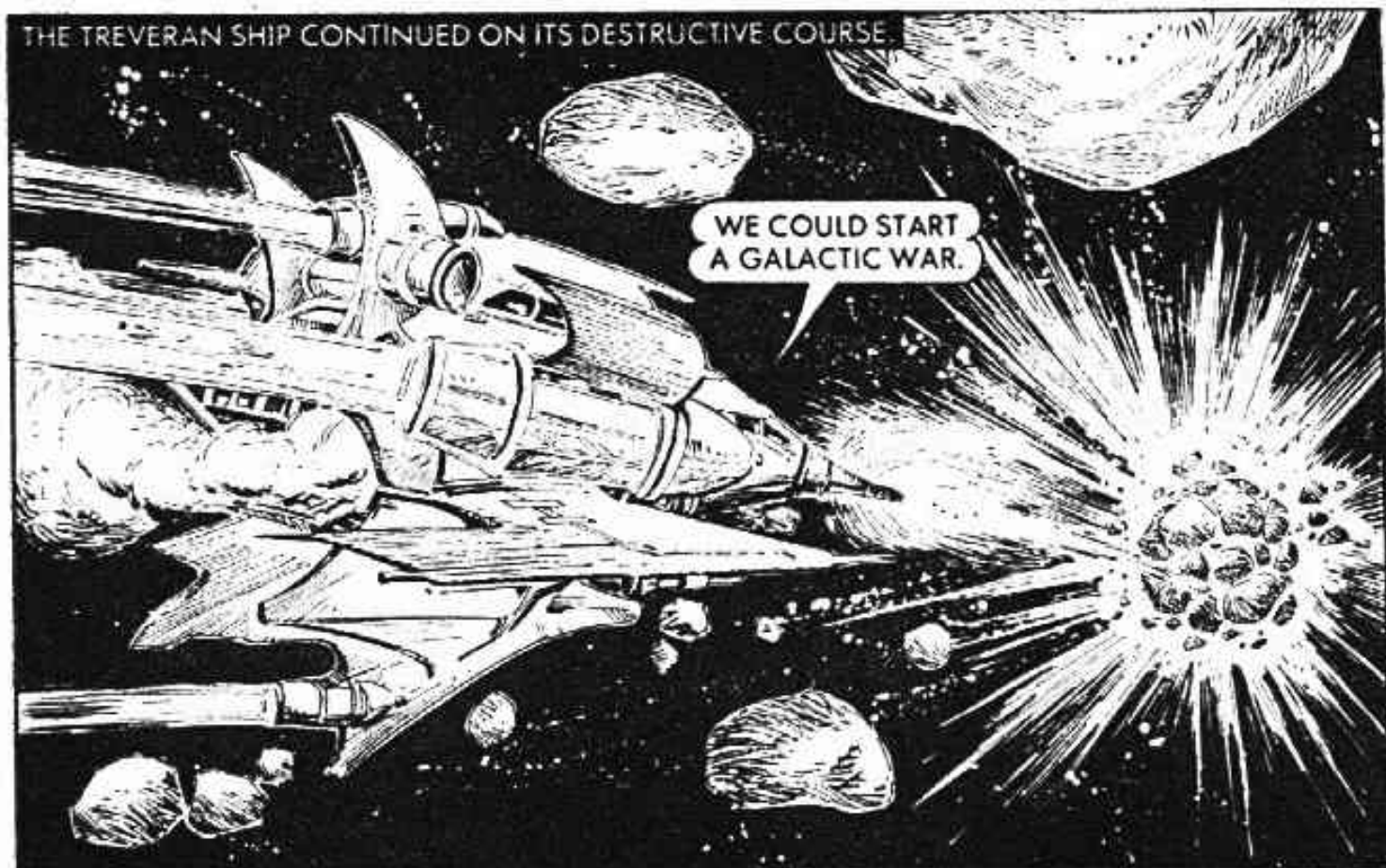








THE TREVERAN SHIP CONTINUED ON ITS DESTRUCTIVE COURSE.







ON THE COMMAND DECK, MARSHALL AND TURNER WERE STILL UNDETECTED.

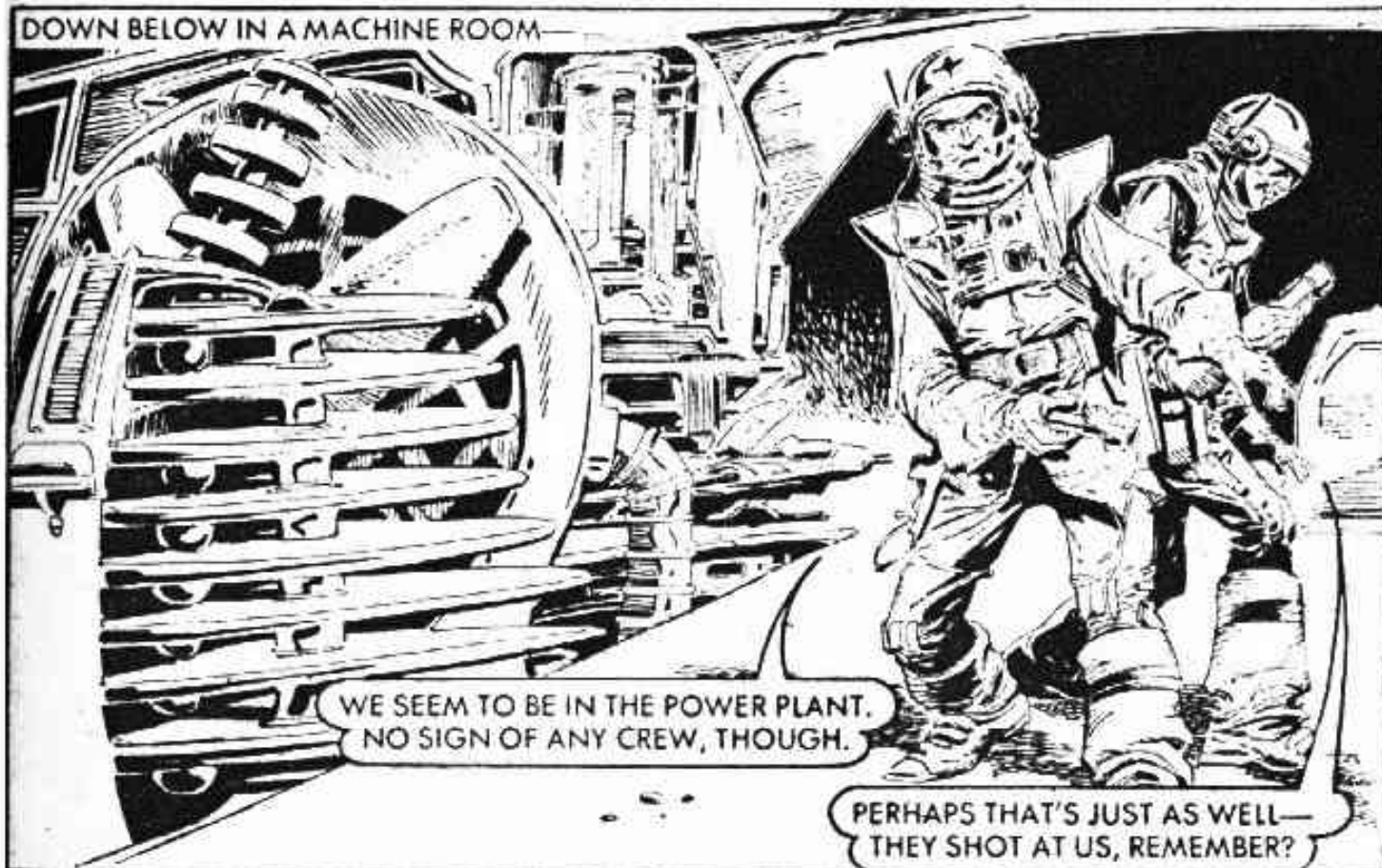
MINERAL EXTRACTION SEEMS TO BE GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN. WE'LL SOON HAVE ENOUGH METALS TO COMPLETE THE REFIT.

ANY OTHER SHIPS IN THE AREA?

NO, NOT EVEN THE HARUDAN VESSEL. BUT IT'S DEFINITELY IN THIS GALAXY. ITS EXIT FROM THE BLACK HOLE WAS CONFIRMED BY OUR SCANNERS. IT WAS THROWN OUT IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.



DOWN BELOW IN A MACHINE ROOM—



WE SEEM TO BE IN THE POWER PLANT. NO SIGN OF ANY CREW, THOUGH.

PERHAPS THAT'S JUST AS WELL—THEY SHOT AT US, REMEMBER?











MANY REMOTES GATHERED TO ATTACK.



FIRE!





TURNER CONNECTED A SCHEMATIC RECORDER TO THE NEAREST BULKHEAD.




THE INSTRUMENT USING CONTROLLED IMPULSES BUILT UP A 3-D PICTURE OF ANY STRUCTURE.











WE HAVE TO PREVENT THEM
INTERFERING WITH OUR PROGRESS.

WE CAN GET ONTO THE BRIDGE
THROUGH THE LIFE-SUPPORT CELLS,
AND TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE.


MEANWHILE ON THE BRIDGE —



THESE ARE MANUAL CONTROLS, BUT
THEY AREN'T CONTROLLING THE SHIP.

THESE TWO ARE DEAD — THEY MUST
HAVE HAD A ROUGH RIDE.





WHO ARE YOU?

MERELY UNWILLING VISITORS...

AFTER LONG EXPLANATIONS —



... SO YOU SEE, WE ARE NOT THE AGGRESSORS IN OUR GALAXY. UNLESS WE CAN DEFEAT THE HARUDAN, THEY WILL DESTROY YOUR GALAXY AS WELL AS OURS.

I'D BETTER LET THE SPACE ADMINISTRATOR KNOW.

BACK IN THE SPACE
ADMINISTRATOR'S BASE —

THERE HAVE BEEN NO
REPORTS YET OF OTHER
SUCH SHIPS. THERE HAS
BEEN INTERFERENCE,
WHICH HAS TEMPORARILY
BLANKED OUT OUR RADAR
MONITORS IN ONE
SECTOR. I'LL SEND SCOUT
SHIPS TO DO A VISUAL
SEARCH.

ON THE TREVERI SHIP, MOVES WERE BEING MADE TO
DISABLE THE GENERATORS —

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS
METAL IS, BUT OUR
WEAPONS CAN'T MAKE A
DENT IN IT. WE'LL HAVE
TO DESTROY THE POWER
PLANT.

BUT IF WE DESTROY THE POWER
PLANT, THIS CRAFT WON'T MOVE
... AND THEN HOW DO WE
STOP THE HARUDAN?

HARUDAN SHIP SIGHTED
... CLOSING FAST.

I SUGGEST YOU CONCENTRATE
YOUR EFFORTS ON GETTING TO THE
MASTER COMPUTER. YOU MAY BE
ABLE TO GET INTO THE COMPUTER
CENTRE FROM OUTSIDE THE SHIP.

RIGHT! RODAN CAN EXPLAIN HOW TO GET IN.
THEN YOU ALL TRY AND DIVERT THE OTHER SHIP
WITH OUR CRAFT.



MARSHALL'S MANOEUVRING JET CARRIED HIM OUTSIDE THE SHIP, WHERE A HOST OF ROBOTS
WERE ENGAGED IN THE TASK OF REFITTING.



MARSHALL WATCHED TURNER TAKE THEIR SHIP TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THE HARUDAN.

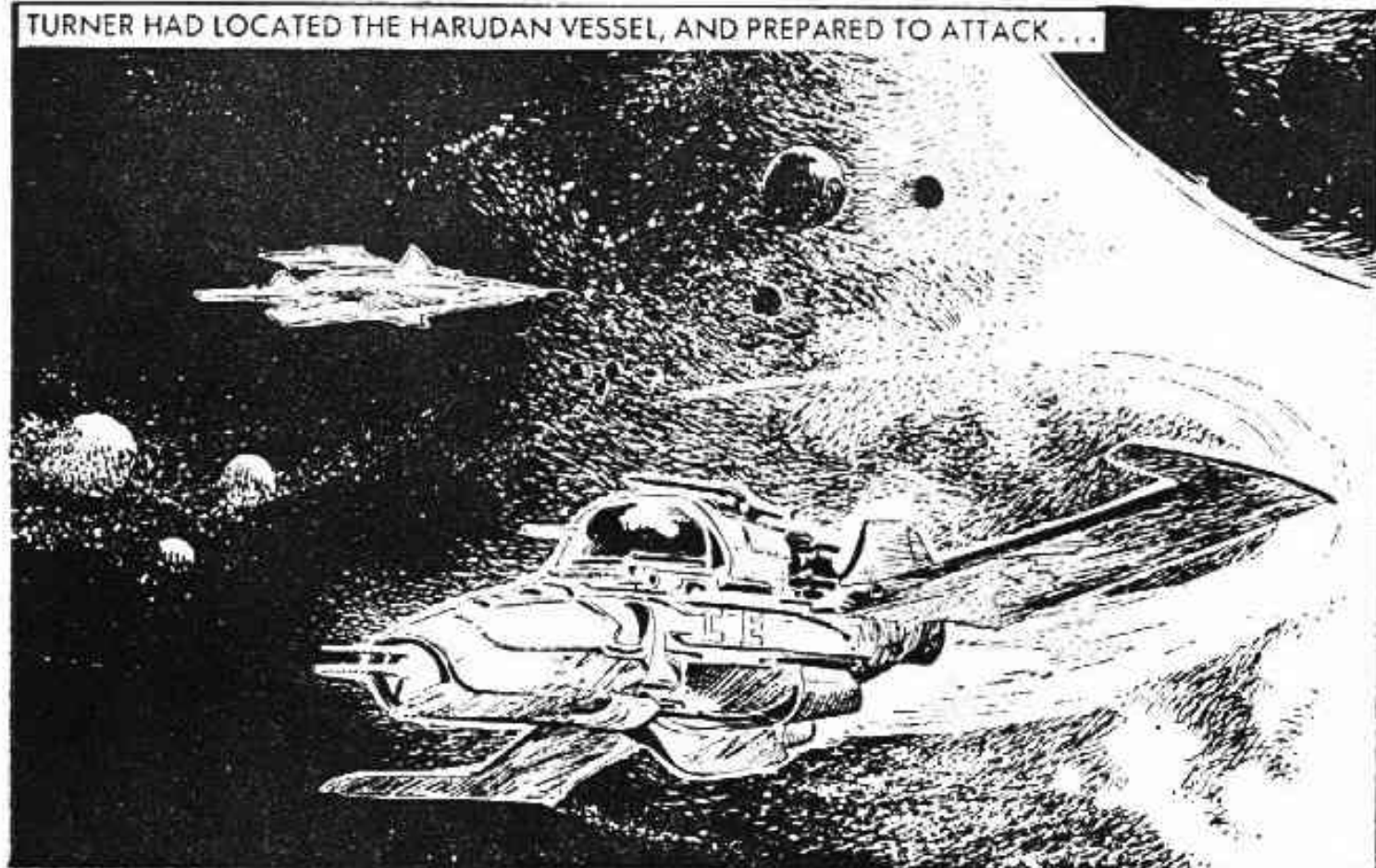


AS INSTRUCTED BY RODAN, THE SPACER MADE HIS WAY TO THE FORWARD TRANSMITTER BEACON...

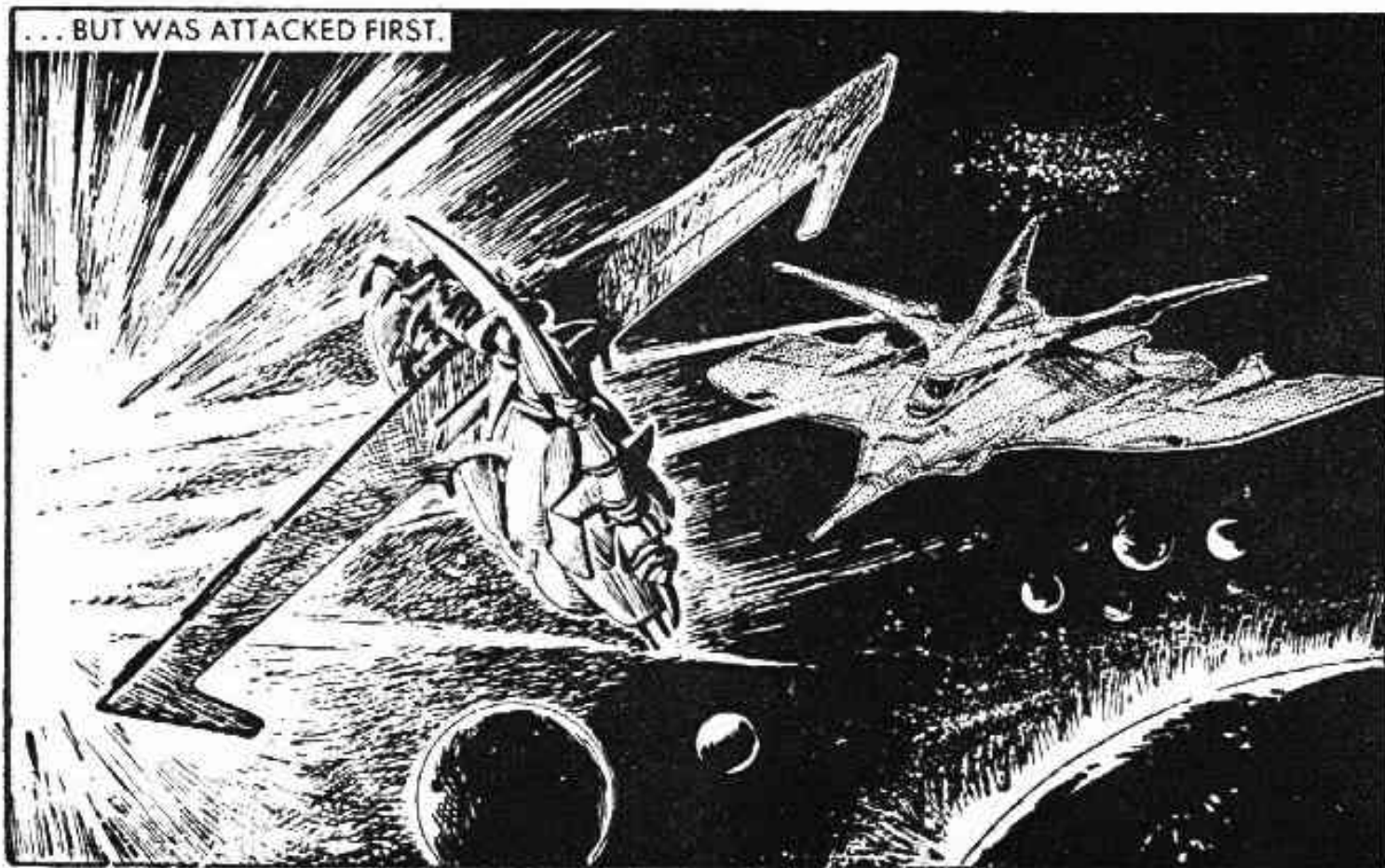




TURNER HAD LOCATED THE HARUDAN VESSEL, AND PREPARED TO ATTACK...

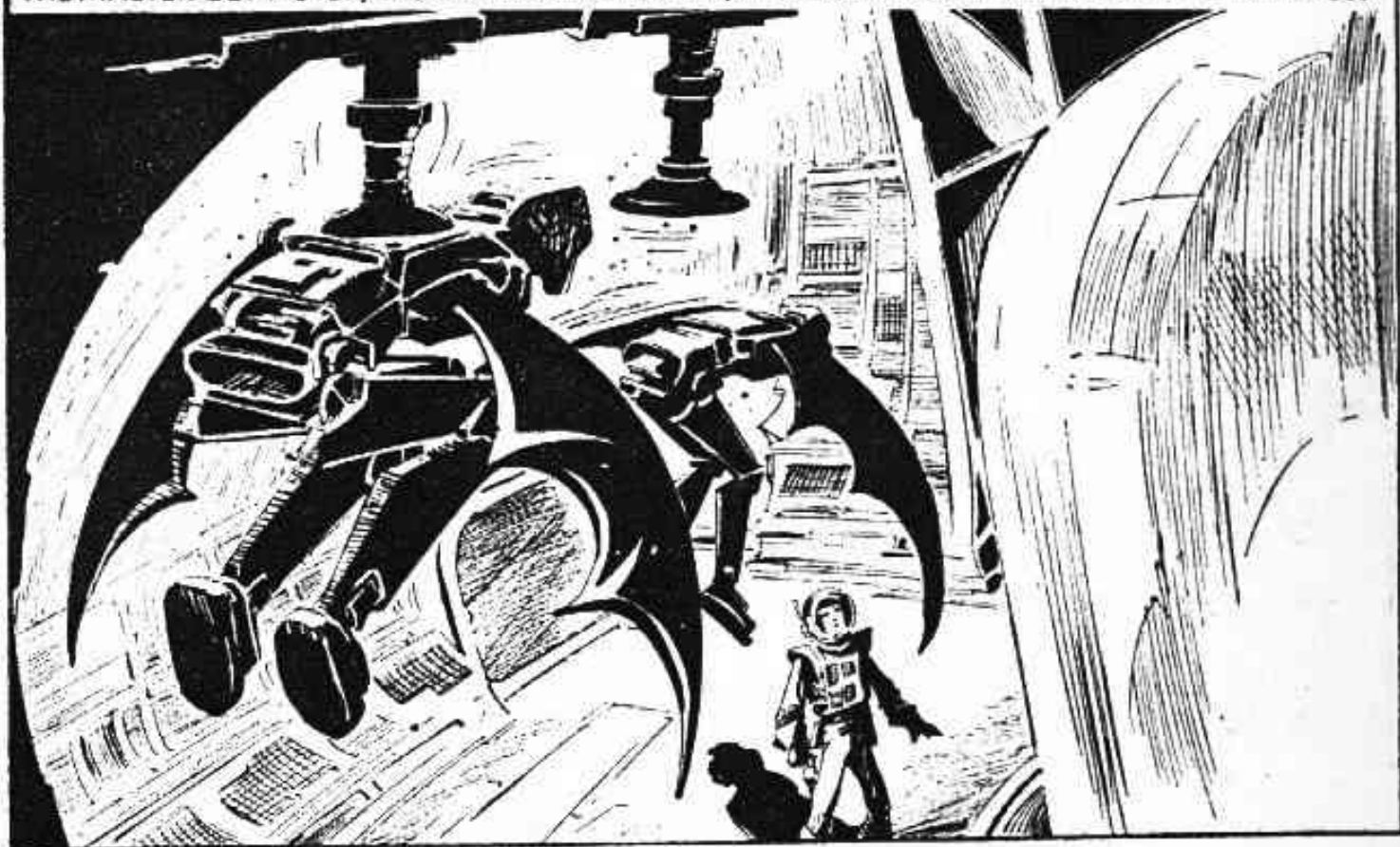


... BUT WAS ATTACKED FIRST.





THE MASTER COMPUTER, A GIANT MUTANT BRAIN, DEFENDED ITSELF WITH A PAIR OF REMOTES.



MARSHALL ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATION WITH THE MASTER COMPUTER.



EARTH CONTROL TO TREVERI -
COMPUTER . . . I REPRESENT THE
GOVERNMENT OF THIS GALAXY.
PLEASE TURN SYSTEMS TO MANUAL.

A BOLT OF DEADLY LASER ENERGY SHOT OUT —

I AM PROGRAMMED TO SEEK AND
DESTROY. THERE IS NO NEED FOR MANUAL
CONTROL.



YOU ARE IN EARTHSPEACE ALONG
WITH A HARUDAN VESSEL NOW
FAST APPROACHING US. YOU
HAVE NOT COMPLETED REPAIRS
SO YOU STAND NO CHANCE . . .
UNLESS YOU TURN OVER TO ME.



TURNER LAUNCHED A TINY SENSOR AT THE HARUDAN WARSHIP ...

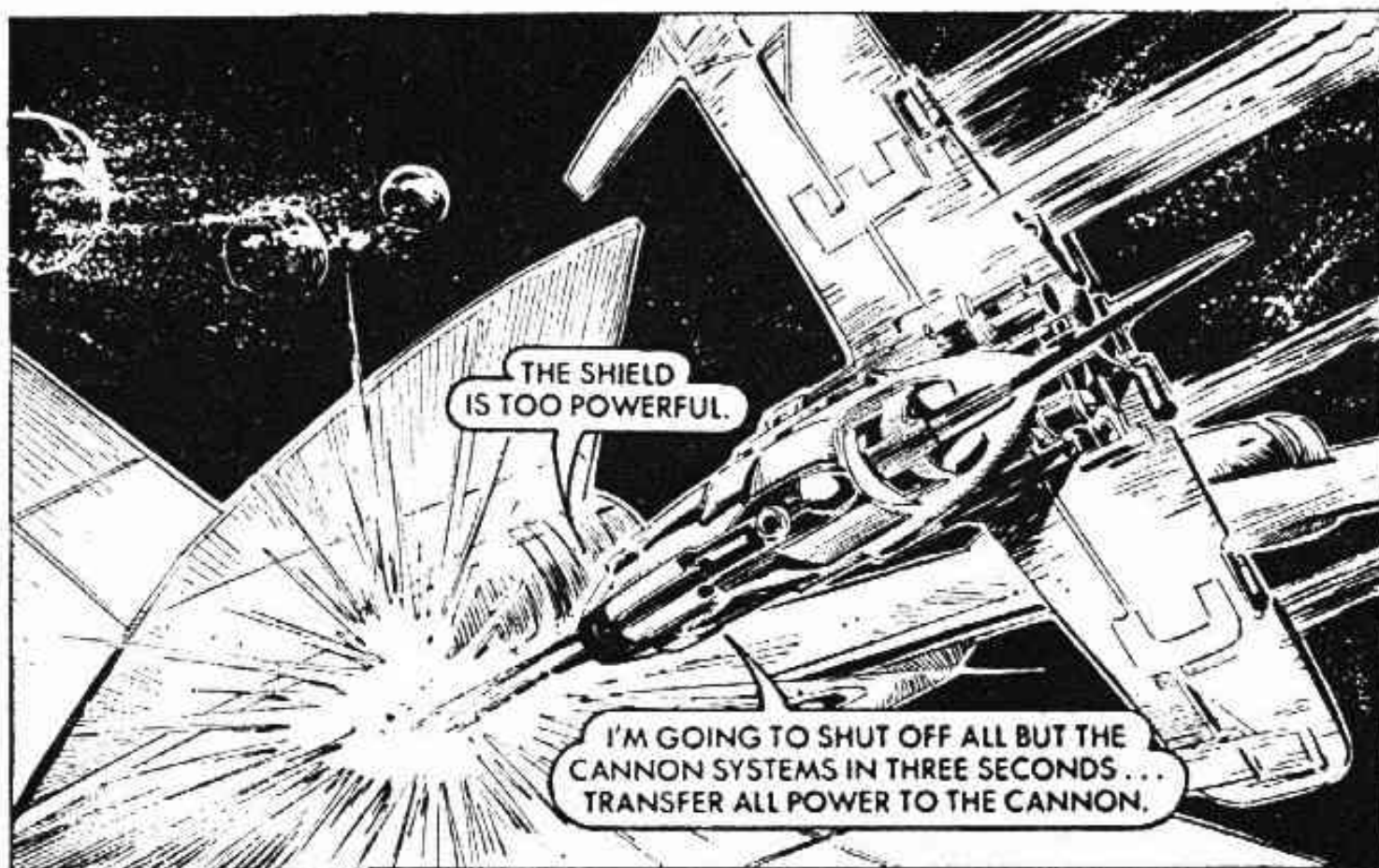
THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE
TO STOP THAT SHIP.

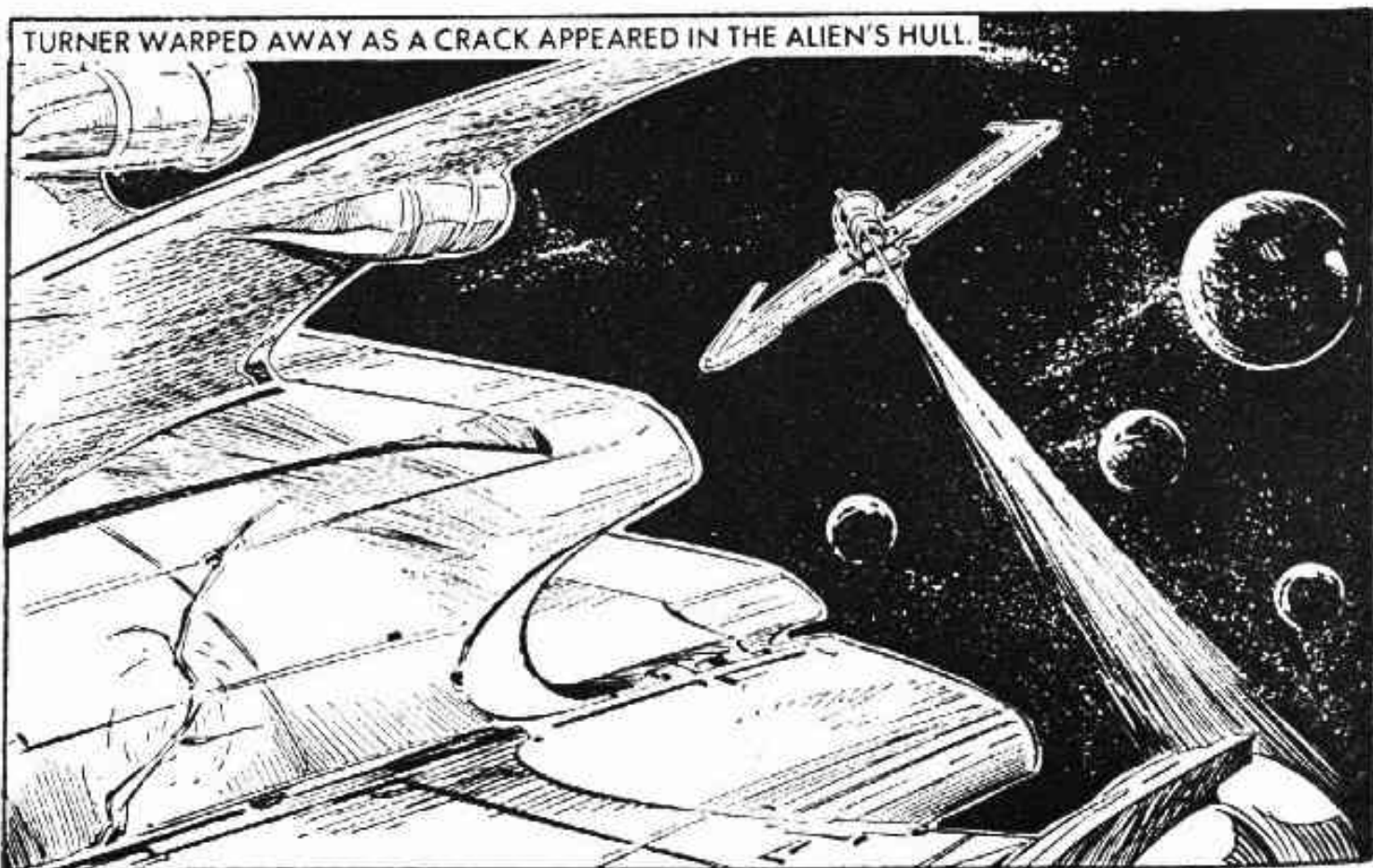
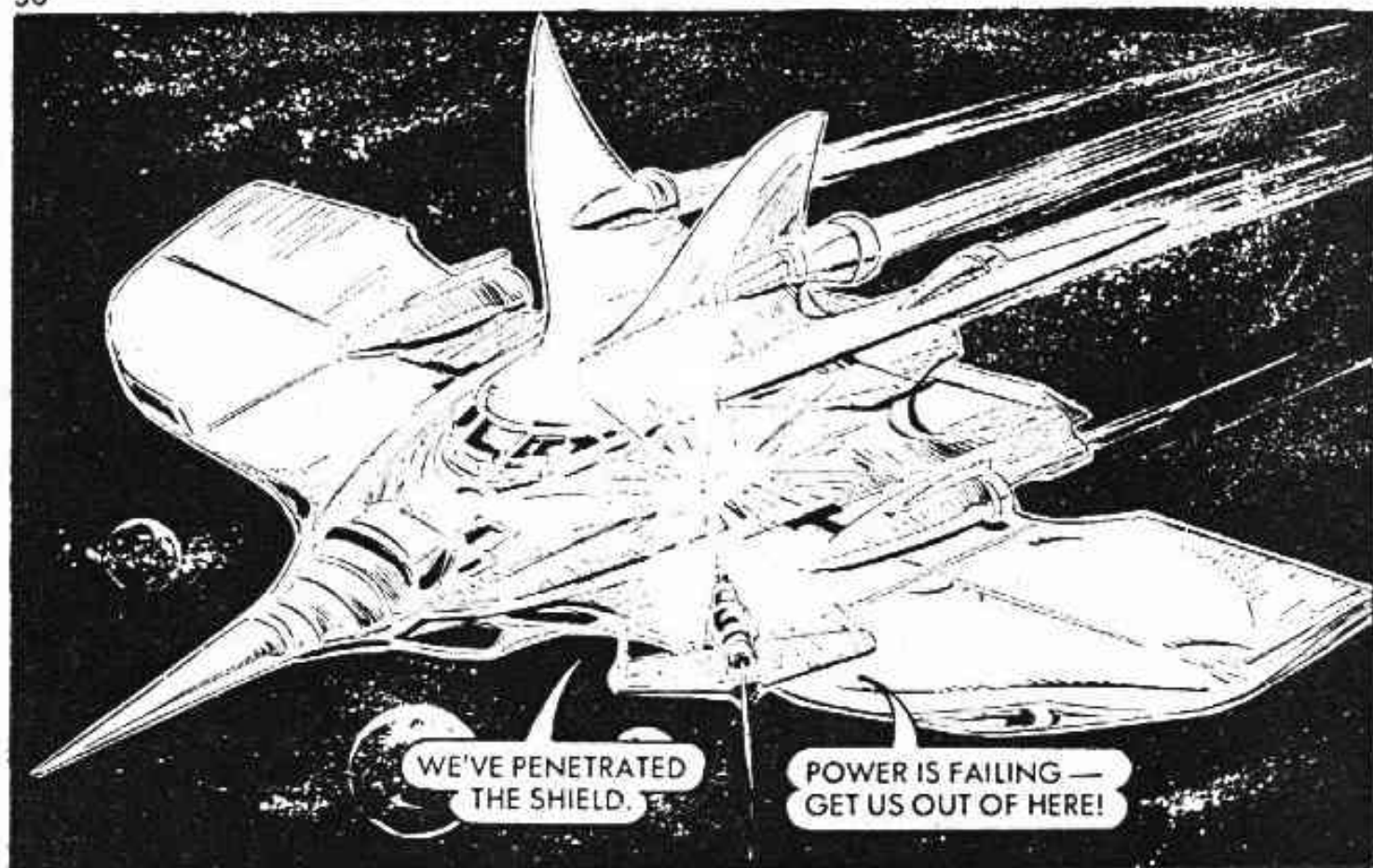
... WHICH ATTACHED ITSELF TO THE UNDERSIDE OF THE VESSEL.

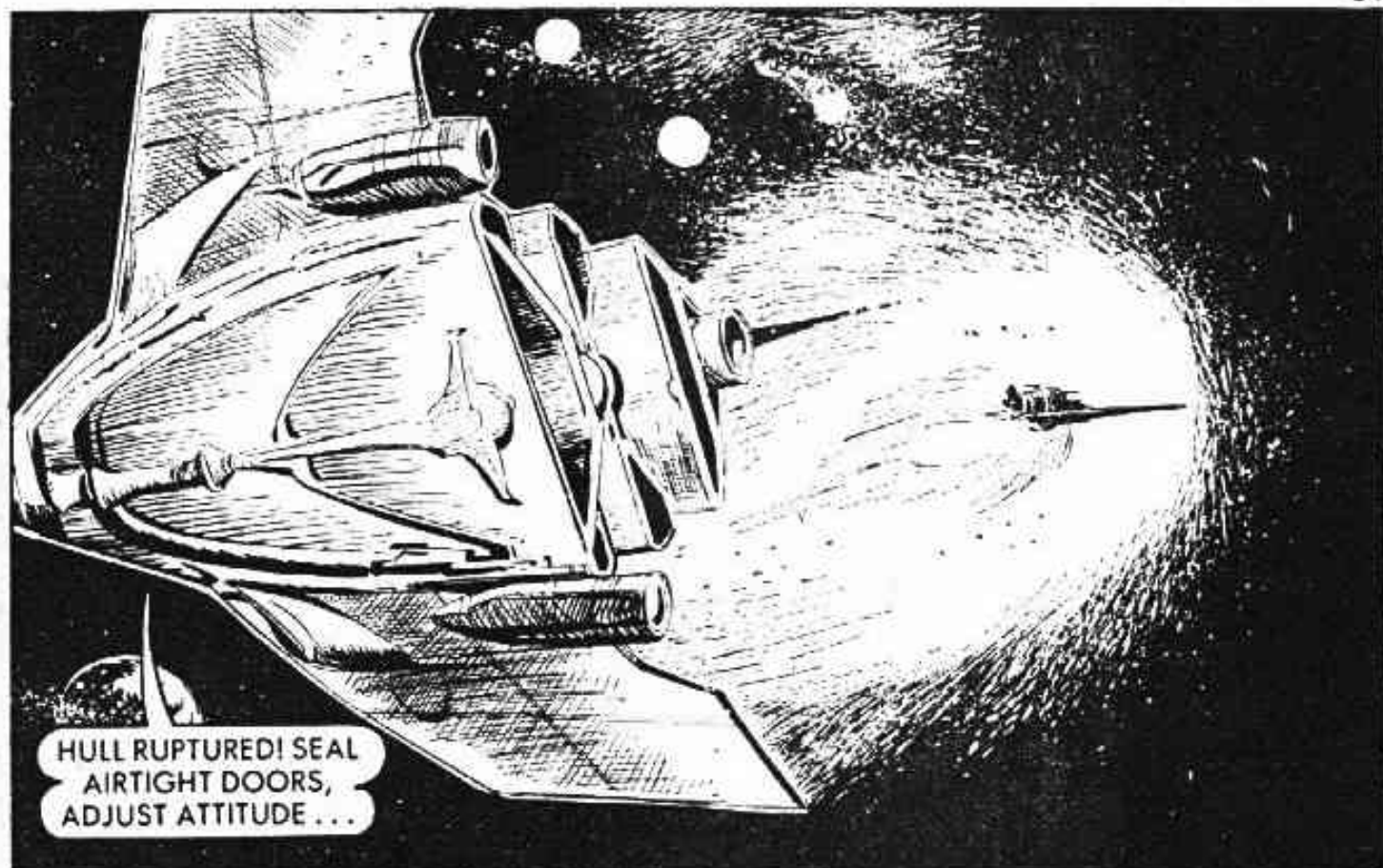




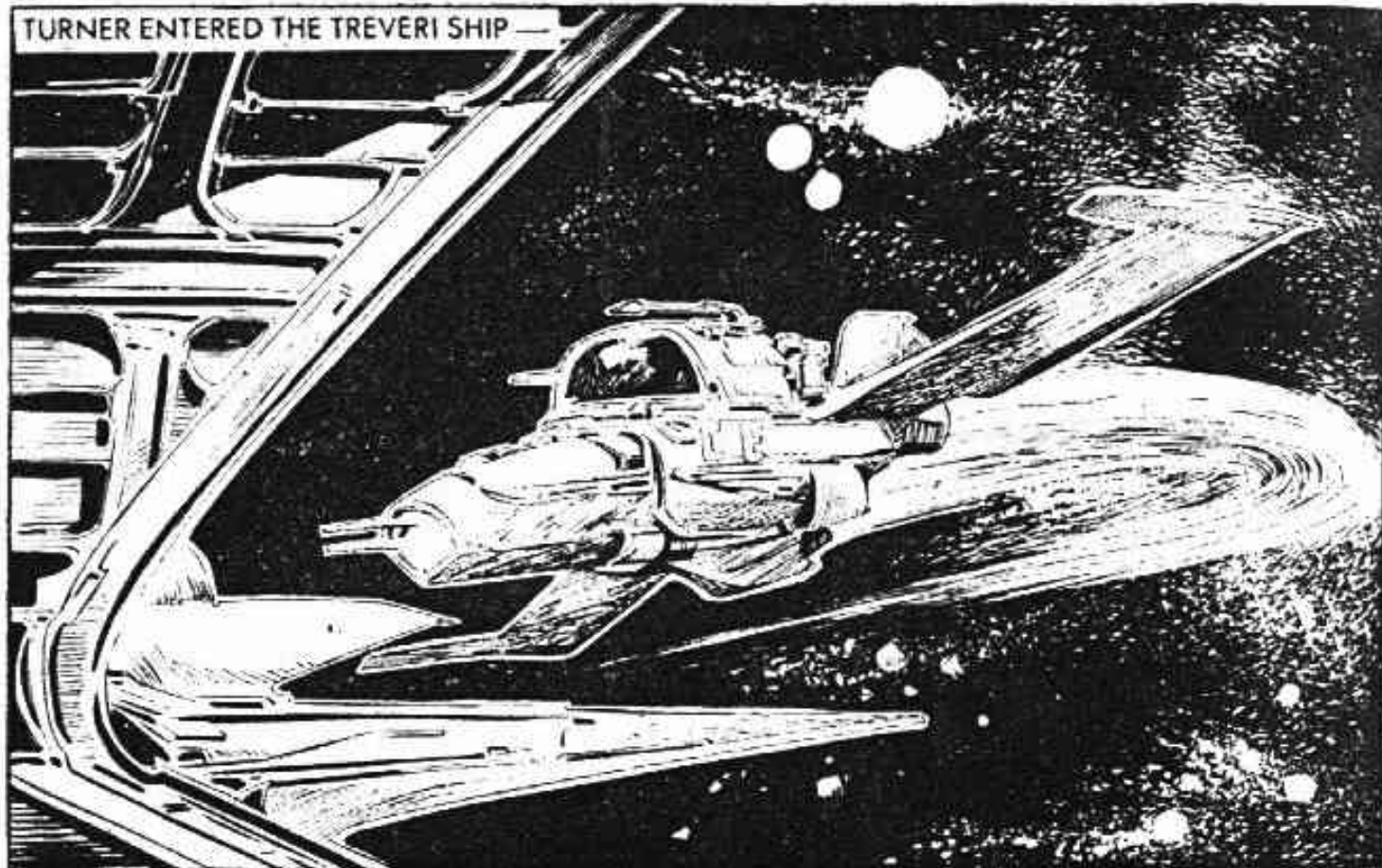
TURNER WARPED TOWARDS THE ALIEN VESSEL —





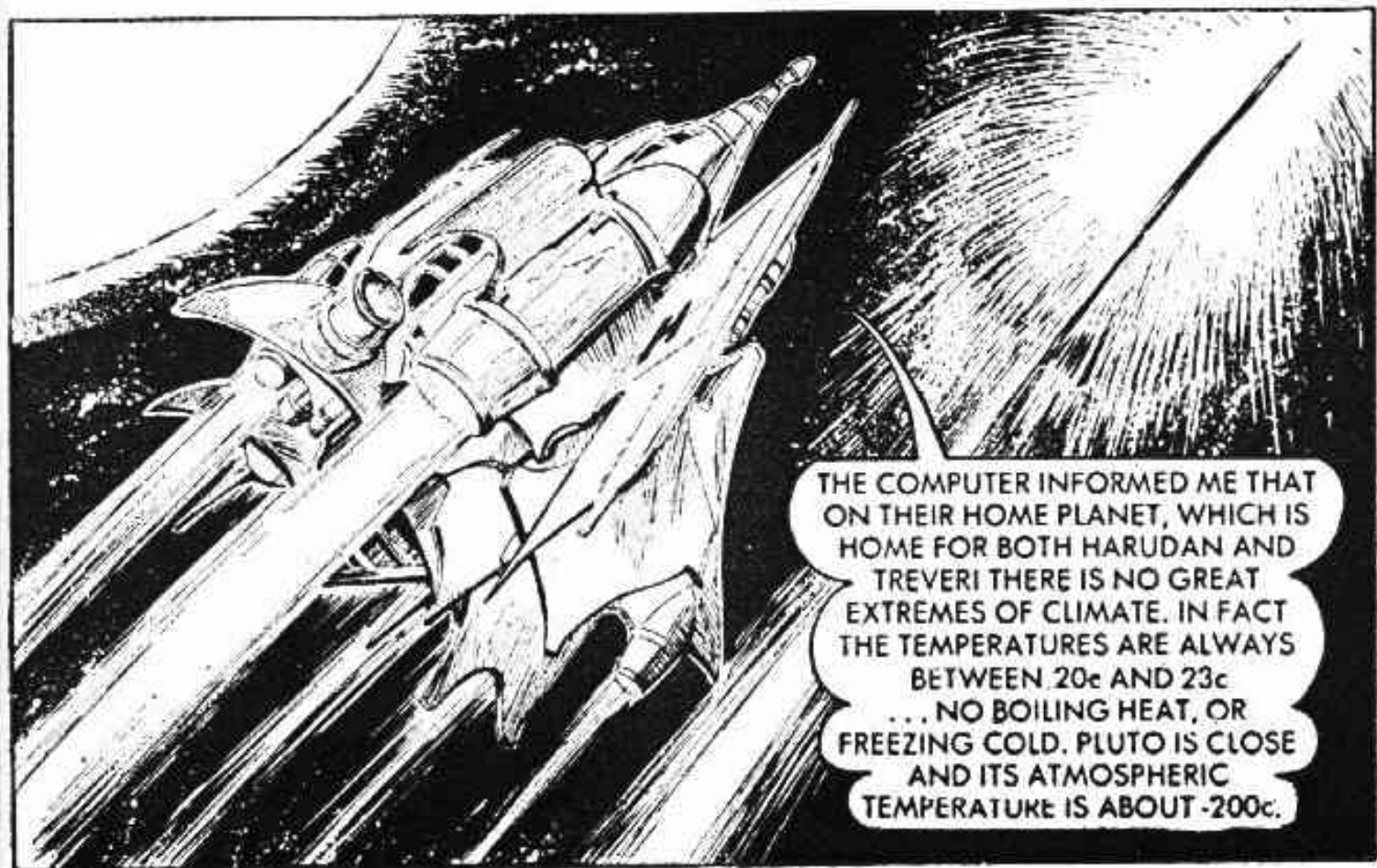


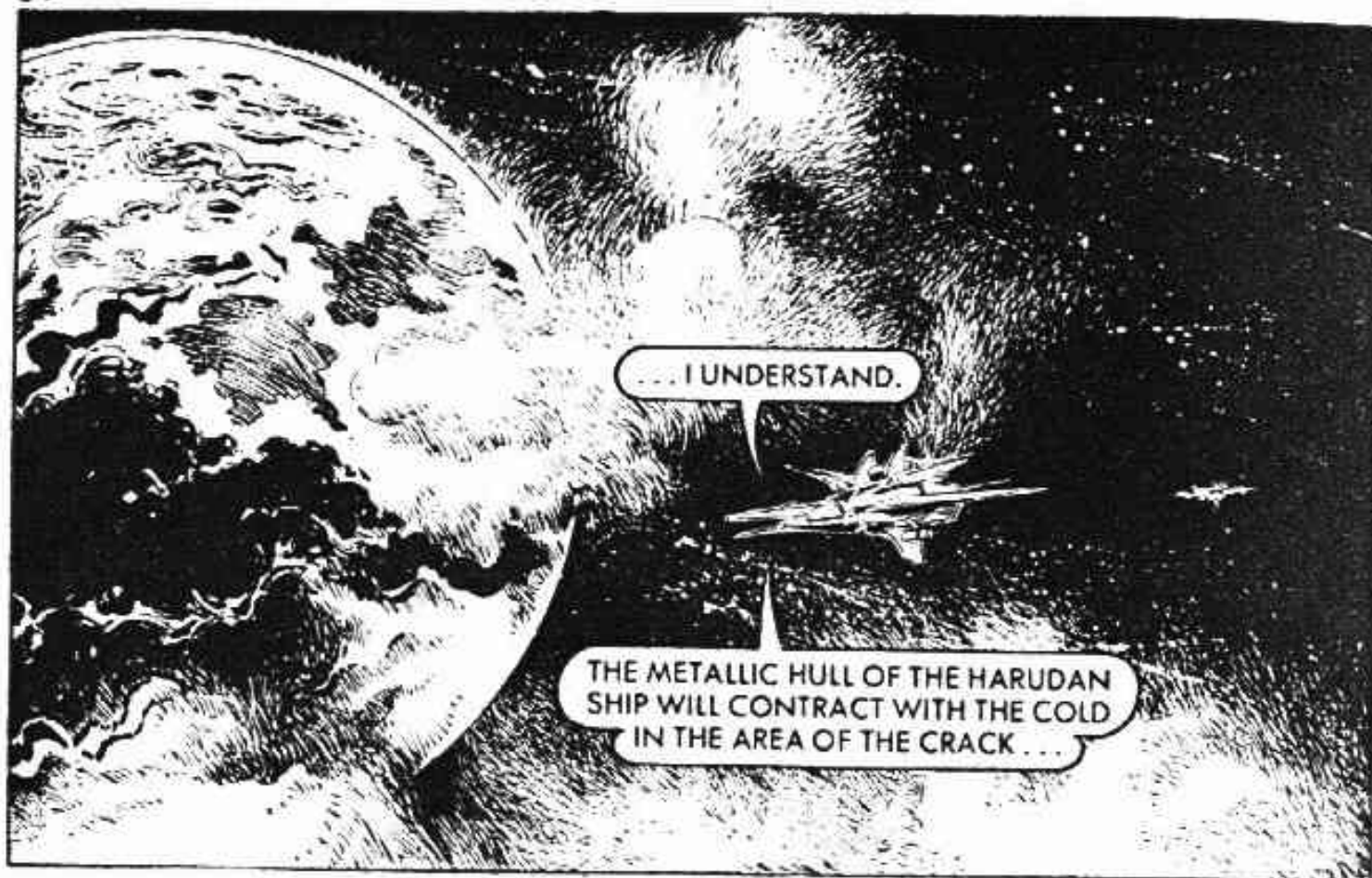
TURNER ENTERED THE TREVERI SHIP —



— AND RACED TO THE BRIDGE.







... I UNDERSTAND.

THE METALLIC HULL OF THE HARUDAN SHIP WILL CONTRACT WITH THE COLD IN THE AREA OF THE CRACK ...



... THEN WE WARP OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE WHERE THE FRICTION CAUSES INTENSE HEAT. THEY'LL FOLLOW AND THE EXPANDING METAL WILL CRACK EVEN MORE.

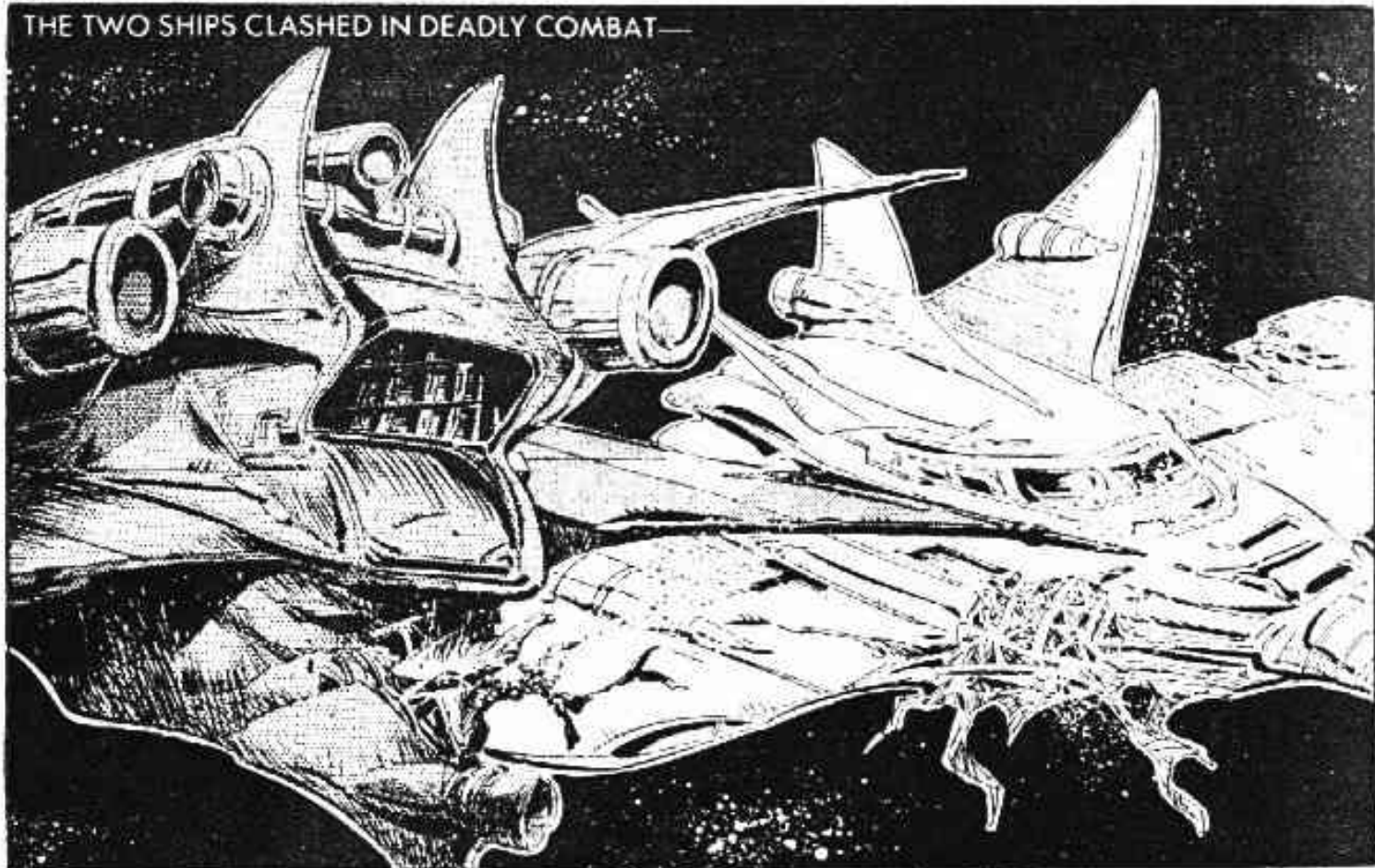
THAT'S THE THEORY ... I HOPE FOR AT LEAST A 50% REDUCTION IN POWER.







THE TWO SHIPS CLASHED IN DEADLY COMBAT—



SEVERE DAMAGE WAS DONE TO BOTH CRAFT—

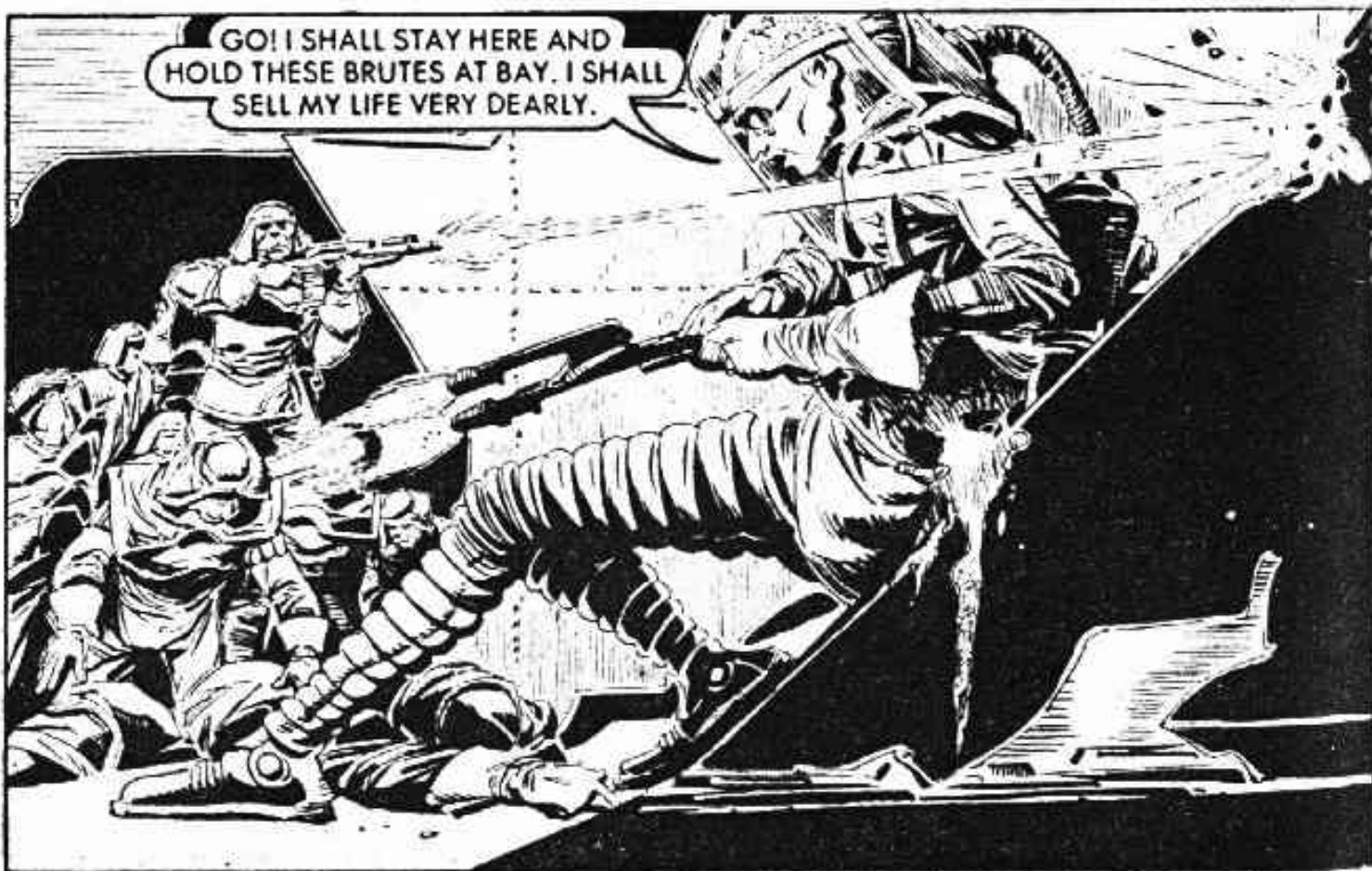


THE FIGHTING WAS VERY FIERCE.

I'M HIT, BARDOC!



GO! I SHALL STAY HERE AND
HOLD THESE BRUTES AT BAY. I SHALL
SELL MY LIFE VERY DEARLY.



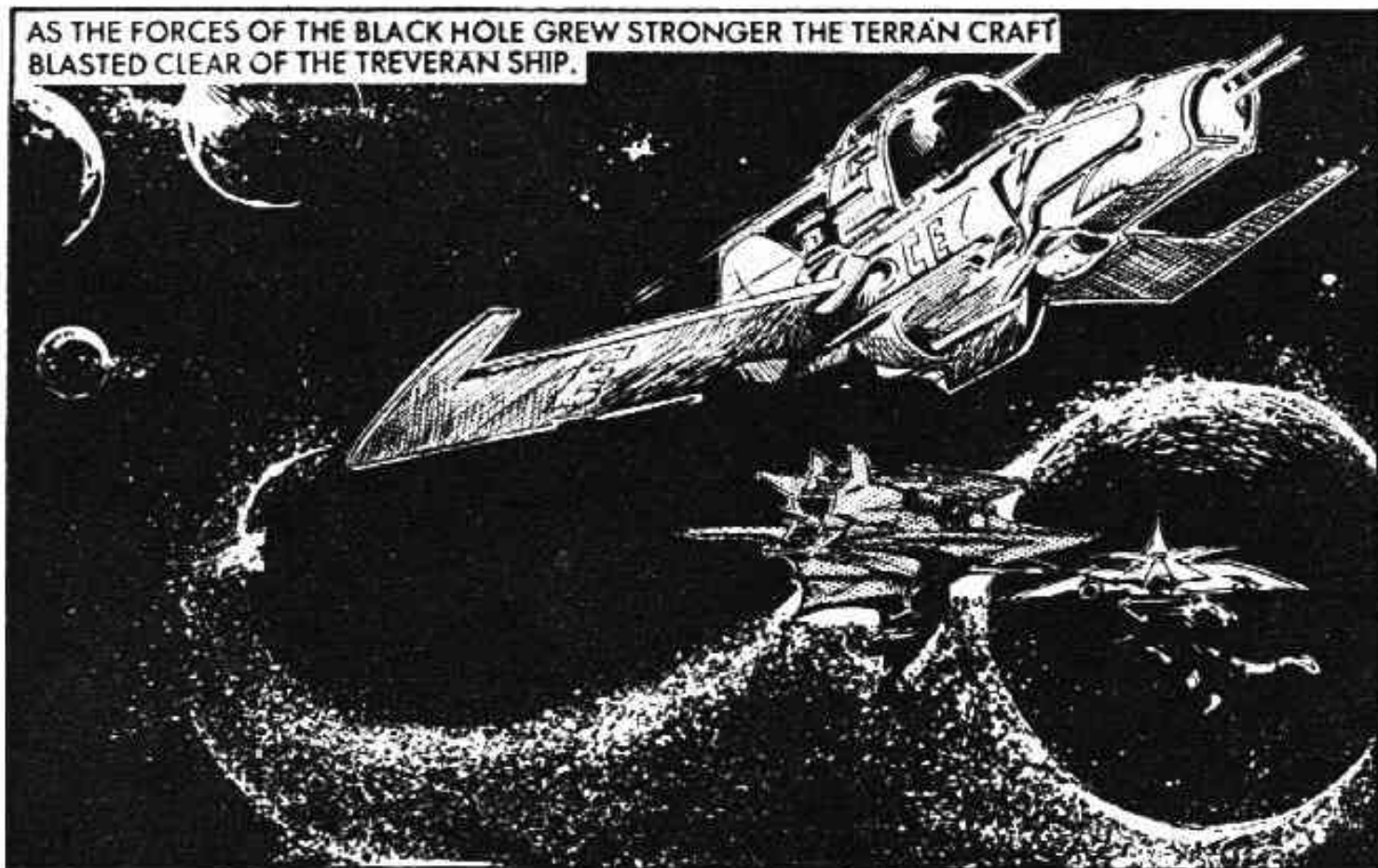


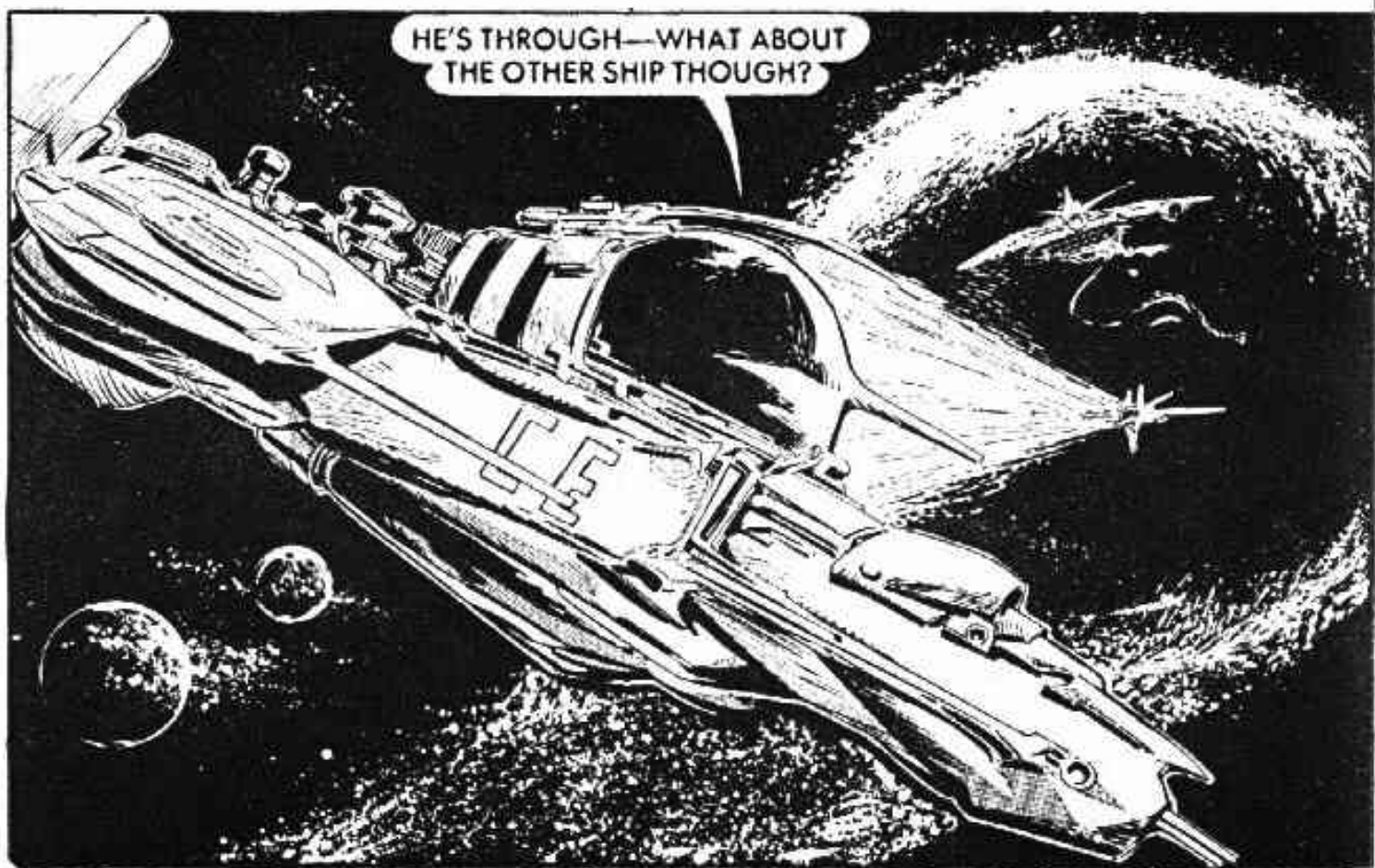


WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE
YOU, BARDUC. GOODBYE.



AS THE FORCES OF THE BLACK HOLE GREW STRONGER THE TERRAN CRAFT
BLASTED CLEAR OF THE TREVERAN SHIP.





THE HARUDAN CRAFT EXPLODED AS THE POWER PLANT WENT CRITICAL.



GONE—THE BLACK
HOLE'S GONE.

YES! THAT EXPLOSION MADE IT
COLLAPSE. THE TWO GALAXIES HAVE
NO TUNNEL NOW—WE'RE ALONE.





THE SOLAR SYSTEM RETURNED TO STABILITY AS MARSHALL AND
TURNER TURNED THEIR CRAFT TOWARDS THE NEXT TROUBLE SPOT.

Printed and Published in Great Britain by D. C. THOMSON & CO., LTD.,
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SPACE ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 83



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